

# History and Developments of Wasatch

# A Brief Outline Of The Principal Events Of The County From It's First Settlement

**Editor's Note:** The following interesting account of the early history of Wasco County was taken from the old files of the *Wave*, dating back to December 1906.

While our forefathers were struggling for independence along the Atlantic coast, the Spaniards were busy exploring the interior of the country south and west of the Rocky mountains. At that time this

From the best information obtainable, we are lead to the conclusion that Wasatch County is the very first portion of the State of Utah ever visited by white men, unless it should be a small portion of the southeast corner of the state on the east side of the Colorado river.

The vast aragon, comprising Utah, New Mexico, part of Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado was a wild and desolate country unexplored by white men, and uninhabited, except for a few savage tribes of Indians who roamed from place to place living principally on roots and seeds. The country was claimed by Spain as a

Numerous expeditions were sent out from Santa Fe from 1770 to 1780 to explore the northwest, but none of them, until the year 1776, seemed able to get beyond the Colorado River. Many were anxious to make further explorations, and in 1776 a company was organized for that purpose, and Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante were chosen as leaders. They started in April, 1776, and after a long and difficult journey, reached the Colorado River, where they turned northward, following the river through Provo canyon, and across the Great Salt Lake Desert, to the Green River, which they followed to the Colorado. They returned to Santa Fe in October, 1776, having made the first exploration of the country between the Colorado and the Great Salt Lake.

oredo river on account of the deep impassable canyon through which it flowed, all returning but little wiser than when they started. The main object seemed to be to stock through the canyon and built up their explorations and the next spring, Wm. Wall, George W. Pease, Aaron Daniels, and other stockmen of the lower valley drove a herd of cattle through the canyon and built up less than twenty feet wide, from Utah valley, Utah county, to Provo valley, Wasatch county, and when said road is constructed and accepted by the selection of We

On the 20th of July, 1776, two Franciscan friars, Francisco Atán, and Pedro Dominguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, in company with seven others, set out from Santa Fe on their hazardous journey of nine "and a half days." They had been sent by the Spanish authorities at Santa Fe to explore the country westward, and to find a route to the Colorado River. They were accompanied by a party of Indians, and were provided with mules, horses, and pack animals. They traveled through the mountains and valleys, and over the plains, and finally reached the Colorado River, where they found a good place to locate. In other words, they looked upon the Wasatch as a barrier to be overcome, and the collection of streams and rivers which flow into the Colorado as a means of crossing it.

for the purpose of discovering a direct route to Monterey, California. Their course, at first, was north-west, but soon they turned north into what is now the State of Col. C. Snow, came up and laid out saw that it was good". In July of this year, a party of Provoites, with county surveyor J. toll stopped until the necessary roads are made". The toll authorized is as follows: For every carriage or vehicle drawn by one animal, \$1.00. For every

orado, doubtless to avoid the deep about a section of ground now or the present site of Heber City into additional pair of animals. Sixty-two acres tracts, each man of cents, for each horse or mule led, by the party selecting his twenty-acre farm. They began at once considering, and Horn, each 5 cent; for sheep-

... on account of the impassable barriers to the west and north. September third they were again able to pursue their northwesterly course and two days later crossed all the undertakings in the territory, being the feasibility of building a road through Provo-Canyon. The matter was laid before Brigham Young, the chief mover in nearly all the undertakings in the territory, and he said, "I will guarantee the property of every loose animal of the horse or cattle kind, 15 cents. The charter expires after three years and the road shall then become the property of

and camped on the northwest bank of what is now known as Granite river in Colorado. On the ninth river in Colorado. On the ninth

tury at that time, and his advice was asked. He was told of the prospects awaiting the settlers in the commonwealth in good condition as shall be accepted by the selection of Utah and Wasatch Counties.

they crossed White river near the Provo Valley, the hardy men would have to endure on account of the cold climate and high alt. tide, and in short, as well as they were able, the advantages and dis-

and Comanches. The place where they first came to Green river they named Santa Cruz. Here were six large black poplars on which they inscribed. They followed advantages or a settlement here. President Young, with a view to settling up the valley and giving access to and from it and probably also with a view to establish-

down Green river in a southwest-  
erly course for about ten leagues  
and from the top of a hill could  
see the junction of the White and  
Green rivers. They could also see  
a route through to the east, which  
would be of easier grade and, for  
the southern counties at least,  
nearer than by way of either em-  
Bratton or Parley's canyon, seem-

a river flowing into Green river from the west, which is undoubtedly the Uintah or Duchesne as it is usually called. They crossed the river at this point and travelled up the stream, which immediately opens

the stream flowing from the west for some distance and camped on the night of September 17th at a branch of the river which they called San Joaquin (very probably connecting Provo and this valley) and the work of constructing a road through Provo canyon com- menced; and before winter set in, a fairly passable road was built

